

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 211, Encouraging Corporations to Contribute to Faith-Based Organizations. Had I been present I would have voted "yea". I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 212, Expressing the Sense of Congress in support of Victims of Torture. Had I been present I would have voted "yea". I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 213, Authorization of the Use of the Rotunda for Presenting Congressional Gold Medals to the Navajo Code Talkers. Had I been present I would have voted "yea".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday morning June 26, 2001, I was unavoidably detained and as a result missed one rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 195, on approval to the House Journal of Tuesday, June 26, 2001.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday morning June 28, 2001, I was unavoidably detained and as a result missed one rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 199, on agreeing to the Tancredo of Colorado Amendment on H.R. 2311.

HONORING FRITZ BRENNKE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to recognize a courageous man for his dedicated years of service to the United States during some of the most horrific times of World War II. I am proud to honor Mr. Fritz Brennecke—a devoted veteran—for his enduring flights over war-stricken Europe as he aided in the effort to ensure Allied victory during the war.

As Mr. Brennecke was harnessed in his waist gunner position aboard a B-24, he fought valiantly against German fighter planes that were attempting to hinder the bombing runs. The waist gunner position, appropriately named for its location behind the wings of the B-24 at the waist of the airship, was capable of defending the aircraft by firing out either side of the fighting bomber. Amidst flak bombs

and insistent attacks, it was not unusual for a mission to return to base with only three or four planes out of the original group with nearly seven planes. Throughout his noble service to the United States, Fritz participated in missions attacking Grottaglie, Italy, Ploesti and other German strongholds.

In 1945, the bombing runs subsided and offered the distinguished war veteran an opportunity to return home. Upon returning to Colorado, Fritz completed his formal education at the University of Denver and eventually retired to Montrose after establishing a career in livestock and produce.

Mr. Speaker, while Fritz Brennecke considers the real heroes of World War II to be those who were never able to return home, his recognition with two Presidential Citations and an Air Medal with five oak clusters testify to his selfless service to America and to his 50 combat flights. These are distinctions one earns for going above and beyond the call of duty.

I am proud to honor Fritz with this Congressional Tribute as he is truly an American hero who exemplifies the spirit of patriotism. He is one individual who added to the collective effort to perpetuate peace and reconciliation following World War II. I commend his notable service and his efforts on the behalf of this country and wish him all of the best in the years to come.

EUROPEAN UNION OPPOSES BEIJING'S OLYMPIC BID—CONGRESS REMAINS SILENT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on July 5th the 626-member European Parliament meeting in Strasbourg, France, adopted a resolution opposing China's bid to host the 2008 Summer Olympics. In finding that China "clearly fails to uphold universal human, civil and political rights, including freedom of religion," the European Parliament urges that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) "reconsider Beijing's candidacy," only when China has made "fundamental change in their policy on human rights, and the promotion of democracy and the rule of law."

Last March, with an overwhelming bipartisan vote, the House Committee on International Relations expressed itself against China holding the Olympics by approving H. Con. Res. 73. Now the 626 Members of the European Parliament have voted and approved a similar resolution, yet we in the U.S. House of Representatives have not been given the opportunity to speak as a whole on this critical moral issue. I implore the Speaker and the Majority Leader—stop bottling up this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the entire text of the resolution concerning Beijing's application to host the 2008 Olympic Games, as adopted by the European Parliament on July 5th, be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I urge my colleagues to review this resolution and consider our obligation to join our European colleagues in speaking out on China's Olympic bid in the few hours that remain before the IOC vote on Friday in Moscow. Religion is

persecuted, political freedom does not exist, media freedom does not exist, our airplane is forced down, our servicemen and women are held in captivity for 11 days; yet this body is not allowed to vote on whether the Olympics should be held in Beijing.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION ON BEIJING'S BID TO HOST THE 2008 OLYMPIC GAMES

The European Parliament resolution on Beijing's bid to host the 2008 Olympic Games. The European Parliament, having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in the People's Republic of China (PRC), having regard to the conclusions of the General Affairs Council of 19 March 2001, in which the Council expressed its concern at the serious human rights violations in the PRC, recalling the city of Beijing's bid to host the 2008 Olympic Games, recalling that the Charter of the Olympic Games states that Olympism has as a goal 'to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with the object of creating a peaceful society with the preservation of human dignity'.

A. Whereas the repression of freedom of opinion and freedom to hold demonstrations in favour of democracy that has been practised for decades, is continuing in the PRC, despite international protests.

B. Having regard to the repression of religious, ethnic and other minorities, in particular Tibetans, Uighurs and Mongolians and the Falun Gong movement.

C. Having regard to the frequent imposition of capital punishment, leading to over a thousand reported executions in China every year, as well as the widespread use of torture on the part of the Chinese police and military forces.

D. Recalling that the PRC has still not ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

E. Whereas the Chinese authorities have taken no significant initiatives on respect for human rights, despite the ongoing political dialogue between the EU and the PRC.

F. Concerned with regard to environmental and animal welfare issues in the PRC.

G. Stressing that the plans relating to Beijing's bid to host the 2008 Olympic Games would involve the destruction of a large part of the old city and the obligatory transfer of the inhabitants to the surrounding areas.

H. Recalling that the International Olympic Committee is due to designate, on 13 July 2001 in Moscow, the city that will host the 2008 Olympic Games.

1. Invites the International Olympic Committee to establish guidelines to include respect for human rights and democratic principles to be applied as a general rule to host countries of Olympic Games.

2. Regrets that the PRC clearly fails to uphold universal human, civil and political rights, including freedom of religion and therefore believes that this negative record and the repression in Tibet as well as in Ouighouristan and in South Mongolia, make it inappropriate to award the 2008 Olympic Games to Beijing.

3. Urges the International Olympic Committee in any case to make a thorough environmental impact assessment with regard in particular to the recurrent water shortages, the impact of mass tourism and the social repercussions in the region surrounding Beijing.

4. Invites the International Olympic Committee to reconsider Beijing's candidacy when the authorities of the PRC have made a fundamental change in their policy on human rights, and the promotion of democracy and the rule of law.

5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission,